

INSIDE TODAY

WORLD NEWS

DETAINED MISSIONARY



This is a photo taken in Dec. 2009 of missing American missionary Robert Park and released by his parents at the Palomar Korean Church Sunday, Dec. 27, 2009, in San Marco, Calif.

Read more on Page A9

SPORTS NEWS

NBA ROUNDUP



Phoenix Suns' Amare Stoudemire (1) shoots over Los Angeles Lakers' Andrew Bynum (17) during the second half of an NBA basketball game Monday, Dec. 28, 2009 in Phoenix. The Suns won 118-103.

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Obama: 'Systemic failure' in U.S.-bound airliner attack

PHILIP ELLIOTT
Associated Press Writer
HONOLULU (AP) — President Barack Obama said Tuesday “a systemic failure” allowed the attempted Christmas Day attack on a U.S.-bound flight from Amsterdam. He called it “totally unacceptable.”

The president said he wants preliminary results by Thursday from two investigations he has ordered to examine the many lapses that occurred.

“There was a mix of human and systemic failures that contributed to this potential catastrophic breach of security,” Obama said. It will take weeks for a more comprehensive investigation into what allowed a 23-year-old Nigerian carrying explosives onto the flight to Detroit despite the fact the suspect had possible ties to al-Qaida, Obama said.

“It’s essential that we diagnose the problems quickly,” the president said, interrupting his vacation for a second consecutive day to address the incident, with more anger this time directed at the flaws in the U.S. system.

Continued on Page 4


Intel report: Iran seeking to smuggle raw uranium

GEORGE JAHN
Associated Press Writer
VIENNA (AP) — Iran is close to clinching a deal to clandestinely import 1,350 tons of purified uranium ore from Kazakhstan, according to an intelligence report obtained Tuesday by The Associated Press. Diplomats said the assessment was heightening international concern about Tehran’s nuclear activities.

Such a deal would be significant because, according to an independent research group, Tehran appears to be running out

of the material, which it needs to feed its uranium enrichment program. The report was drawn up by a member nation of the International Atomic Energy Agency and provided to the AP on condition that the country not be identified because of the confidential nature of the information.

Continued on Page 6



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President Barack Obama speaks at the Marine Corps Base Hawaii in Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2009.

Associated Press



Iranian Foreign Minister Manochehr Mottaki speaks during a press conference, Saturday, Dec. 12, 2009, at the International Institute for Strategic Studies regional security conference in Manama, Bahrain.

Associated Press

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Key security agencies lack permanent leaders



In this photo courtesy of "Meet the Press," Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano appears on "Meet the Press" Sunday, Dec. 27, 2009, at the NBC studios in Washington.

Associated Press

By EILEEN SULLIVAN
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Two federal agencies charged with keeping potential terrorists off airplanes and out of the country have been without their top leaders for nearly a year.

It took the Obama administration more than eight months to nominate anyone to lead the Transportation Security Administration and the Customs and Border Protection agency.

The attempted Christmas Day terrorist attack on a Detroit-bound airliner has prompted a review of U.S. security policies. The acting heads of those agencies — both created in response to the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks — will be at the forefront of these discussions.

Bogged down with health care reform, the Senate has yet to set a date to hold hearings for the Customs position. And Sen. Jim DeMint, R-S.C., has placed a hold on

the president's choice to head the TSA over the senator's concern that the new leader would let TSA screeners join a labor union. This has some Democrats blaming politics for the vacancy.

Former U.S. attorney Alan Bersin is nominated to run CBP, and former FBI agent and police detective Erroll Southers is the president's pick for TSA. The current acting commissioner at CBP is planning to retire next month. On Christmas Day, alleged terrorist Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, a Nigerian who spent time in Yemen, was able to sneak an explosive device aboard his flight from Amsterdam to Detroit, only to be thwarted by the device's apparent failure to work as designed, and aggressive action by other passengers. Abdulmutallab was not on the government's terrorist watch list — though he was on a less sensitive and broader database. He was able to maintain a valid U.S. visa despite warnings about him to U.S. embassy officials in

Nigeria from his father. Those facts are prompting a broad review of the government's terrorist detection efforts.

"The president is looking for answers on this," Denis McDonough, chief of staff of the White House National Security Council, told reporters Monday in Hawaii, where President Barack Obama is vacationing. McDonough said officials have begun to assemble information related to watch list procedures. As yet, no one has been named to oversee the watch list review, he said.

McDonough defended the current leadership and downplayed the significance of not having the new TSA administrator confirmed, although he said "the president is eager to have his TSA head on the job."

Acting TSA Administrator Gale Rossides is "very able" and "we have a very able team of career professionals at TSA. We have a very able team in the Department at Homeland Security, generally," McDonough insisted.

Some Republicans were more critical.

"Running a security agency with a revolving door is a recipe for failure," said Rep. John Mica, R-Fla.

Michael Chertoff, who headed the Homeland Security Department in the Bush administration, said if the country is going to work on enhancing security, there needs to be permanent people in place at TSA and Customs and Border Protection. "A year is too long a time," he said.

Abdulmutallab, charged with trying to destroy an aircraft, is being held at the federal prison in Milan, Mich. A court hearing that had been scheduled for Monday to determine whether the government can get DNA from him was postponed until Jan. 8. No reason was given.

U.S. officials had warning signs that Abdulmutallab might be a threat.

The embassy visit in which Abdulmatallab's father said he was concerned about his son's radicalization triggered a Nov. 20 State Department cable from Nigeria to all U.S. diplomatic missions and department headquarters in Washington. It was also shared with the interagency National Counter Terrorism Center, said State Department spokesman Ian Kelly.

These concerns landed Abdulmutallab among the about 550,000 names in the Terrorist Identities Datamart Environment database, known as TIDE, which is maintained by the NCTC. Other, smaller lists trigger additional airport screening or other restrictions, but intelligence officials said there wasn't enough information to move Abdulmutallab into those categories.

The NCTC, which has responsibility if any visas are to be pulled over terrorism concerns, then reviewed the information and found it was "insufficient to determine whether his visa should be revoked," Kelly said.

According to Yemen's foreign minister, Abdulmutallab was in Yemen from August until early December. □

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Judge: Birth mom must give child to ex-partner

WILSON RING,
Associated Press Writer
MONTPELIER, Vermont (AP) — The birth mother of a 7-year-old girl must transfer custody of the child to the woman's former lesbian partner, a judge ruled, adding that it seems the woman has "disappeared" with her daughter.

Vermont Family Court Judge William Cohen ordered Lisa Miller of Virginia to turn over daughter Isabella to Janet Jenkins of Vermont on Friday at the Virginia home of Jenkins' parents.

But in the Dec. 22 order denying Miller's request to delay the transfer of Isabella, Cohen wrote: "It appears that Ms. Miller has ceased contact with her attorneys and disappeared with the minor child."

Miller and Jenkins were joined in a Vermont civil union in 2000. Isabella was born to Miller through artificial insemination in 2002. The

couple broke up in 2003, and Miller moved to Virginia, renounced homosexuality and became an evangelical Christian.

Cohen awarded custody of the girl to Jenkins on Nov. 20 after finding Miller in contempt of court for denying Jenkins access to the girl.

The judge said the only way to ensure equal access to the child was to switch custody. He also said the benefits to the child of having access to both parents would be worth the difficulties of the change.

Mathew Staver, Miller's attorney, declined through a spokeswoman to comment on the case.

A listing for Lisa Miller in Winchester, Virginia, says the phone line has been temporarily disconnected at the customer's request.

Jenkins' attorney, Sarah Star, said she hopes Miller is simply not communicating with her attorneys but plans to comply with the order.

In this April 17, 2008 file photo, Lisa Miller, left, answers questions about her custody battle during a news conference immediately following arguments for her case before the court at the State Capitol in Richmond, Va, and In this Nov. 17, 2006, file photo, Janet Jenkins of Fair Haven, Vt., appears in Vermont Family Court in Rutland, Vt.

Associated Press

"It is Ms. Jenkins' intent when she has custody of Isabella to allow as liberal contact as is possible with her other mother," Star said Tuesday.

When Cohen dissolved the civil union, he awarded custody to Miller but granted liberal visitation rights to Jenkins.

The supreme courts of Virginia and Vermont ruled in favor of Jenkins, saying the case was the same as a custody dispute between a heterosexual couple.

The case was appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, which declined to hear arguments on it. □



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OBAMA

Continued from Front Page

The suspect, Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, was on one advisory list, but never made it onto more restrictive lists that would have caught the attention of U.S. counterterrorist screeners, despite his father's warnings to U.S. Embassy officials in

Nigeria last month. Those warnings also did not result in Abdulmutallab's U.S. visa being revoked.

On top of that, airport security equipment did not detect the bomb-making devices and materials he allegedly carried on board the Northwest Airlines flight carrying nearly 300 people.

Obama said many things went right after the incident, with passengers and the flight crew subduing the man and government officials working quickly to increase security. He singled out his homeland security secretary, Janet Napolitano, backing her much-criticized comments that the attempted terror

attack showed the aviation security system worked.

"As Secretary Napolitano has said, once the suspect attempted to take down Flight 253, after his attempt, it's clear that passengers and crew, our homeland security systems, and our aviation security took all appropriate actions," Obama said.

Napolitano received so much criticism for her Sunday talk show remarks that she did another round of interviews the following day to say the system did not work in preventing Abdulmutallab from getting on the plane with a bomb. But, she said, the response system did work after the man was subdued. She contends her remarks were taken out of context. Republicans are questioning her judgment and a few have called for her resignation. The White House says her job is safe. However, Obama said: "What's also clear is this: When our government

has information on a known extremist and that information is not shared and acted upon as it should have been ... a systemic failure has occurred. And I consider that totally unacceptable."

The two reviews, which Obama said got under way on Sunday, are looking at airport security procedures and the U.S. system of terror watchlists. "It now appears that weeks ago this information was passed to a component of our intelligence community but was not effectively distributed so as to get the suspect's name on a no-fly list," Obama said. "Even without this one report, there were bits of information available within the intelligence community that could have and should have been pieced together." Had that happened, he said, "the warning signs would have triggered red flags, and the suspect would have never been allowed to board that plane for America." □

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Cuba gives U.S. diplomat access to arrested American

PAUL HAVEN

Associated Press Writer

HAVANA (AP) — The Cuban government has given a U.S. diplomat access to a jailed American citizen accused of providing communications equipment to dissident groups while working as a government contractor, a U.S. official in Havana said Tuesday.

The case has drawn denunciations from Cuban President Raul Castro and further strained U.S.-Cuba relations after months of slow but steady progress toward easing their half-century diplomatic standoff.

The visit by a consular official took place Monday at an undisclosed location where the American is being held following his arrest in early December, according to a spokeswoman at the U.S. Interests Section, which Washington maintains in Havana instead of an embassy. "We were given access by the Cubans yesterday," Gloria Berbena told The Associated Press. "He was visited by a consular representative from the U.S. Interests Section."

In Washington, State Department spokesman Ian Kelly said the Obama administration remains "focused on the welfare of the detained U.S. citizen."



Cuba's President Raul Castro looks up as he attends the National Assembly's final plenary session in Havana, Sunday, Dec. 20, 2009.

Associated Press

Both declined to give any further details on the encounter, the detained man's whereabouts or his condition, citing federal privacy laws. Neither government has identified him.

The State Department said previously that he was working as a subcontractor for the Maryland-based economic development organization Development Alternatives Inc. Jim Boomgard, the company's president and chief executive, said he was part of a new USAID program intended to "strengthen civil society in support of just and democratic governance in Cuba." □




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INTEL REPORT

Continued from Front Page

In Washington, State Department spokesman Ian Kelly said, "the transfer of any uranium yellowcake ... to Iran would constitute a clear violation of UNSC sanctions." "We have been engaged with many of our international nonproliferation partners on Iran's illicit efforts to acquire new supplies of uranium over the past several years," he said. A senior U.S. official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was talking about confidential information said Washington was aware of the intelligence

report, but he declined to discuss specifics.

"We are not going to discuss our private consultations with other governments on such matters but, suffice to say, we have been engaged with Kazakhstan and many of our other international nonproliferation partners on this subject in particular over the past several years," he told the AP. "We will continue to have those discussions."

In New York, Burkina Faso's U.N. Ambassador Michel Kafando, a co-chair of the Security Council's Iran sanctions committee, referred questions Tuesday about

a potential deal between Iran and Kazakhstan to his sanctions adviser, Zongo Saidou. Speaking in New York, Saidou told the AP that, as far as he knew, none of the U.N.'s member nations has alerted the committee about any such allegations.

"We don't have any official information yet regarding this kind of exchange between the two countries," Saidou said. "I don't have any information; I don't have any proof."

A senior U.N. official said the Vienna-based IAEA was aware of the assessment but could not yet draw conclusions. He spoke on condition of anonymity

because he was discussing confidential information. A Western diplomat from a member of the IAEA's 35-nation board said the report was causing concern among countries that have seen it and was generating intelligence chatter. The diplomat also requested anonymity because he was barred from publicly discussing intelligence information.

A two-page summary of the report obtained by the AP said the deal could be completed within weeks. It said Tehran was willing to pay \$450 million, or close to €315 million, for the shipment.

"The price is high because of the secret nature of the deal and due to Iran's commitment to keep secret the elements supplying the material," said the summary, adding: "The deal is to be signed soon." An official of the country

that drew up the report said "elements" referred to state employees acting on their own without approval of the Kazakh government.

After-hours calls to offices of Kazatomprom, the Kazakh state uranium company, in Kazakhstan and Moscow, were not answered. Iranian nuclear officials also did not answer their telephones.

Purified ore, or uranium oxide — known as "yellowcake" — is processed into a uranium gas, which is then spun and re-spun to varying degrees of enrichment. Low enriched uranium is used for nuclear fuel, and upper-end high enriched uranium for nuclear weapons. Iran is under three sets of Security Council sanctions for refusing to freeze its enrichment program and related activities that could be used to make nuclear weapons. □

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Standoff over U.S. base closure sours U.S.-Japan ties



In this photo taken on Dec. 17, 2009, a military transport plane takes off from Marine Corps Air Station Futenma in Ginowan, Okinawa, Japan.

Associated Press

ERIC TALMADGE

Associated Press Writer

GINOWAN, Japan (AP) — When the U.S. took over a Japanese airfield here in the closing days of World War II, it was surrounded by sugarcane fields and the smoldering battlegrounds of Okinawa. It is now the focus of a deepening dispute that is testing Japan's security alliance with the United States and dividing its new government in Tokyo.

A large city has grown up around the base, and helicopters and cargo planes from the U.S. Marine Corps facility buzz so low over Futenma No. 2 Elementary School, whose playground fence borders the facility, that the windows rattle and teachers stop class until the aircraft are on the ground. "It's just too much," said the school's vice principal, Muneo Nakamura. "I understand the

political role the U.S. bases in Japan play. But we have to live here."

That Marine Corps Air Station Futenma must go is not the dispute. U.S. military officials agree the base must be moved. The problem is where.

The United States says that Futenma cannot be shut down until a replacement is elsewhere on Okinawa, an idea that most Okinawans oppose. They have the ear of a new left-leaning Japanese government that took office in September and is reassessing the U.S.-Japan alliance.

The standoff has clouded relations between Tokyo and Washington, delayed a plan to restructure America's military presence in Asia and divided Japan's political leadership. It comes as China's rising military strength and North Korea's nuclear program are changing the security landscape in Asia, underscoring the importance for the U.S. and Japan of

keeping the issue from creating a major rift.

In Ginowan, the city of 92,000 where the base is located, patience is wearing thin.

The Futenma facility, home to about 2,000 Marines and one of the Marines' largest facilities in the Pacific, is surrounded by urban sprawl.

The population density outside the base is roughly equivalent to downtown Tokyo. Intense training by helicopters and planes off a 9,186-foot (2,800-meter) runway has prompted residents to dub Futenma "the most dangerous base in the world."

The base takes up roughly a quarter of the city's land. Residents must drive around it, causing traffic jams, delays and frustration. Sewer and water lines have been detoured around its perimeter.

"This base violates so many regulations and safety rules that it would be illegal to operate it in the United States,"

Yoichi Iha, the mayor of Ginowan, told The Associated Press. "The situation has just been left to fester for too long, and no one has been willing to accept responsibility to do anything."

He also accused the Marines of regularly ignoring agreements on when and where they can fly. The city is installing a 2 billion yen (\$20 million) radar system next year to keep tabs on them. A Japanese court ruled last year the noise levels are unacceptable, and ordered the Japanese government to compensate residents. An appeal is ongoing.

Lt. Col. Douglas Powell, a spokesman for the Okinawa Marines, said no flights are conducted after 11:00 p.m. and the airstrip is closed on Sundays.

"Night training flights are limited to the minimum required to fulfill assigned missions and maintain aircrew proficiency," he said. □

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North Korea confirms it has detained an American

KWANG-TAE KIM

Associated Press Writer

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea acknowledged Tuesday it had detained an American for illegally entering the reclusive country, news welcomed by relatives of an Arizona missionary who feared they would never hear from him again after he sneaked across the border.

Activists say they last saw Robert Park as he slipped across the frozen Tumen River into North Korea on Christmas Day, carrying letters urging the country's absolute leader to step down and free the hundreds of thousands of people held in political camps.

After four days without any word, relatives of the 28-year-old Korean-American said Tuesday they were relieved when the communist country finally announced it had a U.S. citizen in custody — though analysts say Park's actions are likely to be seen as hostile to the regime and could draw a long prison sentence.

"My fear was that they say they don't know anything about it and may get rid of him secretly," Manchul Cho, an uncle of Park, told The Associated Press in California. "Once they recognize it, that's really good." The two-sentence dispatch from the official Korean Central News Agency said an American was being investigated after "illegally entering" the country on Christmas Eve. The report did not identify the man, but activists and family believe it is Park. There was no immediate explanation for the discrepancy in the date of entry. In Washington, U.S. State Department spokesman Ian Kelly said: "The DPRK government has confirmed it is holding a U.S. Citizen pending an investigation. We will continue to work through the Swedish Embassy, our protecting power in Pyongyang, to seek consular access to this American citizen." Cho, a Los Angeles psychiatrist, said he hopes North Korea will deport Park, a devout Christian, noting that a long incarceration would only galvanize critics of the

communist regime.

The Rev. Madison Shockley, a Park family pastor in Carlsbad, Calif., also called the announcement positive news.

"Without acknowledging his presence, they could do anything and we'd never hear from him again. They could have said 'we don't know who you're talking about,'" he said. "Now, by acknowledging, they have accountability for it."

Just months ago, North Korea freed two U.S. journalists arrested in March whom it had sentenced to 12 years of hard labor for trespassing and engaging in "hostile acts." The women were released in August to former U.S. President Bill Clinton, who journeyed to Pyongyang to negotiate their freedom.

The latest detention could give the North bargaining power with Washington, which is trying to coax Pyongyang to return to the international talks aimed at ending its nuclear weapons programs. The two countries agreed on the need to resume the negotiations during a trip to Pyongyang by President Barack Obama's special envoy earlier this month, but North Korea did not make a firm commitment on when it would rejoin the talks.

Analysts have suggested that the negotiations to free American reporters Euna Lee and Laura Ling may have been a turning point for U.S.-North Korea relations, giving the volatile regime the opportunity to make a fresh start with Washington.

Now, Pyongyang finds itself once again holding a trump card.

Park's detention presents "a diplomatic headache for the two countries," said Koh Yuhwan, a North Korea expert at Seoul's Dongguk University, adding that the North could try to take advantage of the detention issue in its negotiations with the U.S. But he said Washington is unlikely to go to the same lengths for Park as it did in the high-profile detention of Ling and Lee, who work for the Current TV media venture started by former U.S. Vice

President Al Gore.

North Korea's criminal code punishes illegal entry with up to three years in prison, but it's unclear how the North might handle Park's case.

Analyst Paik Hak-soon of the private Sejong Institute think tank in South Korea predicted Pyongyang will sentence Park to a lengthy prison term, then free him.

State Department spokesman Ian Kelly told reporters Monday that the Swedish Embassy in Pyongyang has offered to help get information about Park for the U.S., which does not have diplomatic ties with North Korea.

"We are concerned by these reports and we are looking into them," Kelly said in Washington.

The Rev. John Benson, pastor at Life in Christ Community Church in Park's hometown of Tucson, Arizona, supported Park's self-proclaimed mission to draw attention to the situation in North Korea. "Drastic situations call for



A two year old family photo released by the Park family shows missing missionary Robert Park, second from right, with his father, Pyong Park, right, mother, Helen Park, and brother Paul Park. North Korean border guards apparently detained Robert Park as soon as he walked into the communist nation in an effort to call attention to Pyongyang's human rights abuses.

Associated Press

drastic measures. We all need to wake up and not pay lip service to North Korea," Benson said. "We need to take action, and that is what Robert is doing." North Korea holds some 154,000 political prisoners

in six large camps across the country, according to South Korean government estimates. Pyongyang has long been regarded as having one of the world's worst human rights records, but it denies the existence of prison camps. □

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or
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With oriental soy sauce, spaghetti squash and asparagus
or
Stuffed Chicken Breast
with Crabmeat in a Raspberry Cream Sauce
Seared stuffed chicken breast with crabmeat in a rich raspberry cream sauce
or
Mustard Roast Rack of Lamb
Seared mustard rack of lamb served with rosemary mint sauce
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Tropicana turns 70, feathers, dancing gals and all

By PAUL HAVEN,

Associated Press Writer

HAVANA — When the Tropicana nightclub and casino opened its doors in a leafy Havana garden on Dec. 30, 1939, World War II was raging in Europe, “Gone With the Wind” had just hit U.S. theaters and a rebellious youngster named Fidel Castro had just turned 13.

So much has changed in the 70 years since — but not the Tropicana show, which offers those willing to pay the price an intoxicating peek at an era when Cuba was America’s naughty island playground, a place where nearly anything was possible, and legal.

The club marked its big anniversary this week with the same celebration of glamour and kitsch, sin and sensuality, sequins, feathers, showgirls and Latin beats that has made it one of the world’s most famous — and infamous — nightspots.

In a gala that stretched past midnight Monday, about 850 tourists, government officials

and special invitees watched tributes to Tropicana legends such as Nat King Cole and Rita Montaner and listened to pulsating salsa, samba and son music. There was a big band, a contortionist act, an a-cappella rendition of “The Banana Boat Song” and a two-man acrobatics team in skintight leotards.

And then there were the showgirls.

Showgirls wearing elaborate butterfly costumes; showgirls dressed up like Spanish bullfighters; showgirls sporting faux crystal chandeliers (with working lights) on their heads, gold and silver sequined string bikinis on their bodies.

It was as it has always been at the Tropicana, which bills itself as a slice of “paradise under the stars.”

The club “remains an iconic location that is known the world over,” said Maria Elena Lopez, Cuba’s vice tourism minister, who turned out for the show. “It is one of the most important tourist destinations in Cuba and ... it has no

equal.”

David Varela, who has been the Tropicana’s director since 2003, said the club drew a record 200,000 visitors in 2008. He expects that to drop to about 150,000 this year as a result of falling tourism amid the world economic crisis and the global swine-flu pandemic.

The club can seat as many as 1,500 people, though the normal capacity is 850. Tickets to a show cost about \$80 including dinner — by far the most expensive night out in Havana. Shows start about 10 p.m. and go late into the night.

The Tropicana club was started by Italian-Brazilian show-biz producer Victor de Correa and two casino operators, but it became famous about a decade later when it fell under the sway of American mobsters Santo Trafficante Jr. and Meyer Lansky, who along with their frontmen drew big-name talent and hired the voluptuous cabaret girls known the world over as

“Goddesses of the Flesh.”

Among the stars who played the main stage, under a lush canopy of trees: Celia Cruz, Paul Robeson, Liberace, Orfelio Fox, Carmen Miranda and Yma Sumac. Many nights the audience was just as famous. Marlon Brando, Sammy Davis, Jr., Greta Garbo and other Hollywood stars came to the Tropicana, making it the ideal place to see and be seen.

There was even a Cubana airlines plane with live music and a wet bar to take patrons from Miami for the show and return them early the next day.

Shortly after Fidel Castro’s 1959 revolution, the Tropicana and other famous Cuban hotels and casinos were nationalized, and many of the gaming houses, brothels and strip clubs never reopened.

But the Tropicana endured — minus the gambling — sticking with the showy costumes, cabaret dancers and exorbitant prices that it was founded on, even as Cuba embraced



A cabaret dancer performs at a gala celebrating Tropicana nightclub’s 70th anniversary in Havana, Monday, Dec. 28, 2009.

(AP Photo/Franklin Reyes)

a new communist ethos of egalitarianism, efficiency and sacrifice. Most of the club’s patrons have always been deep-pocketed foreigners, but some lucky Cubans were able to get in at deeply discounted prices, usually as a reward for excelling at work. The practice continued until late 2008, when President Raul Castro said the cash-strapped government could no longer afford the subsidy and others like it. □



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Stocks slip to break six-day winning streak



FILE - In this May 22, 2006 file photo, Specialist Garet Boehning works at his post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. A string of exploding investment bubbles that started with the dot-coms and ended with mortgages and oil dominated the years from 2000 to 2009. And it looks like the next decade will be no different.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

By SARA LEPRO
and TIM PARADIS,
AP Business Writers

NEW YORK — The stock market edged lower Tuesday, breaking a six-day advance as reports on home prices and consumer confidence did little to excite buyers. Major indexes had risen modestly in the early going but slipped as the dollar strengthened and tugged on commodities prices. A stronger dollar makes commodities more expensive for foreign buyers. The drop in commodities weighed on energy and materials stocks. Trading was quiet, as it has been in recent days, and many investors left at the end of the day for a long New Year's weekend. The low volume held the Dow Jones industrial average to a 38-point range, and the modest losses came after stocks had risen for six straight days. Economic reports looked stronger but failed to galvanize investors. The Conference Board said its index of consumer confidence rose to 52.9 in December from 49.5 in November. That was slightly better than economists had forecast. The index remains well below what is considered healthy. A

reading of 90 or more signals a solid economy. However, the index has jumped from a historic low of 25.3 in February.

Home prices also rose. The Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller's home price index rose for a fifth straight month

in October, edging up 0.4 percent. The index was off 7.3 percent from October last year, roughly in line with expectations.

Analysts said there were few surprises in the economic numbers to drive the market. "The reports we're seeing

broadly reinforce the expectations we've had," said Jim Baird, partner and chief investment strategist for Plante Moran Financial Advisors in Kalamazoo, Mich. "It's slow and steady; It's not explosive improvement."

According to preliminary calculations, the Dow slipped 1.67, or less than 0.1 percent, to 10,545.41. The S&P 500 index fell 1.58, or 0.1 percent, to 1,126.20, while the Nasdaq composite index fell 2.68, or 0.1 percent, to 2,288.40. □



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Dinner prices valid December 31, 2009 at Hyatt Regency Aruba Ruinas Del Mar. Reservations are recommended by calling 011-297-526-4243. Early special available from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.; \$80.00 per person, from 8:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.; \$95.00 per person. For children 5 to 12 Half Price and free for children 4 and under. 15% service charge as well as 3% Local Tax will be added to your check. Price does not include; alcoholic beverages, tax or gratuity. Other restrictions may apply, call for details. Hyatt reserves the right to alter or withdraw this program at any time without notice. HYATT, Hyatt Hotels & Resorts® and Hyatt Regency,® names, designs and related marks are trademarks of Hyatt Corporation. ©2009 Hyatt Corporation. All rights reserved.



SPORTS

Aruba TODAY



Georgia quarterback Joe Cox (14) call out a play against Texas A&M in the third quarter of the Independence Bowl NCAA college football game in Shreveport, La., Monday, Dec. 28, 2009. Georgia won 44-20.

Associated Press

Georgia drops Texas A&M 44-20 in Independence Bowl

CHRIS TALBOTT

Associated Press Writer

SHREVEPORT, Louisiana (AP) — Joe Cox threw two touchdown passes and Caleb King added two rushing scores as Georgia beat mistake-prone Texas A&M 44-20 on Monday in the Independence Bowl.

Cox hit Aron White on touchdown passes of 24 and

2 yards in the second half as the Bulldogs (8-5) pulled away for their fourth straight bowl victory. It was the fourth straight postseason loss for the Aggies (6-7), who have not won a bowl since 2001.

Georgia blocked two kicks, Brandon Boykin tied the Southeastern Conference record with his third kickoff

return of the season and Cox threw his first touchdown pass after the snap sailed over the Texas A&M punter's head in the third quarter. The Bulldogs sealed the win by intercepting Jerrod Johnson twice in the third quarter. White tied the Independence Bowl record for touchdown receptions, sharing it with four others. □

Leach seeks court order to coach Alamo Bowl

By BETSY BLANEY

Associated Press Writer

LUBBOCK, Texas — The lawyer for Mike Leach says the suspended Texas Tech coach did nothing wrong in how he treated a player with a “mild” concussion, and Leach is seeking a court's help to allow him to coach in the Alamo Bowl on Jan. 2.

The motion for a temporary restraining order was filed Tuesday in Lubbock. An in-chambers hearing was set for 8:30 a.m. Wednesday in the 99th District Court.

University officials suspended Leach on Monday while the school investigates a complaint from receiver Adam James and his family. James is the son of former NFL player Craig James, now a television sports analyst for ESPN.

A person close to James with direct knowledge of the situation alleges the player was twice forced to stand in a small, dark place while the team practiced. The person spoke to The AP on the condition on anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the complaint.

A person close to the inquiry said Leach was “begged to work something out to



In this Oct. 24, 2009, file photo, Texas Tech coach Mike Leach talks with his team during an NCAA college football game against Texas A&M in Lubbock, Texas. Leach has been suspended while the school investigates complaints from a player and his family about treatment after an injury.

Associated Press

avoid a confrontation.” The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation is ongoing.

That person also said Leach late last week postponed a meeting related to the inquiry and refused to sign a letter saying “no one injured would be returned to work out without doctors' permission.” The school's attorney left a voice mail message with Leach's attorney that the university needed a letter of apology by noon Monday, the person said.

It did not arrive.

“That's when they made the decision to suspend (Leach), thinking that would bring him to his senses,” the person said. Jerry Turner, vice chairman of the university system's board of regents, declined to comment on whether, if true, the incidents might lead to Leach's departure.

“We haven't gotten to that point, of course,” Turner said. “This is an ongoing inquiry, and I certainly do not want to prejudice the results of the inquiry.” □



In this May 10, 2009, file photo, Boston Red Sox's Jason Bay hits an RBI double for the go-ahead run in the eighth inning of a baseball game against the Tampa Bay Rays in Boston.

Associated Press

AP source: Mets, Bay reach preliminary agreement

By BEN WALKER

AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK — The Baywatch is set to begin at Citi Field. Free agent slugger Jason Bay and the New York Mets have reached a preliminary agreement, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because Bay must pass a physical for the deal to be completed. The three-time All-Star is expected to sign a four-year contract for about \$65 million.

Bay set career highs with 36 home runs and 119 RBIs last season for Boston. The 31-year-old outfielder is a lifetime .280 hitter and has averaged 30 homers and 99 RBIs in his six full seasons in the majors.

Bay fills a huge hole in left field for the Mets, who skidded to a 70-92 mark during an injury-plagued year. They especially needed a bopper after hitting a major league-low 95 homers in the first season at their spacious, new ballpark.

The deal was first reported by WFAN.

Bay produced in his 1 1/2 seasons with the Red Sox, but the sides couldn't agree on a new deal. □

Favre among 8 Vikings in Pro Bowl

BARRY WILNER

AP Football Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Brett Favre was among eight Minnesota Vikings and Peyton Manning was one of six Indianapolis Colts picked for the NFL Pro Bowl on Tuesday.

It will be Favre's 11th Pro Bowl and the 10th for Manning. No other quarterbacks have been to 10 all-star games.

Favre will be a backup to New Orleans' Drew Brees, the NFL's top-rated passer. The other NFC quarterback will be Aaron Rodgers, who replaced Favre in Green Bay last year.

Tennessee running back Chris Johnson, the league's leading rusher, also made the AFC team, along with NFL receptions leader Wes Welker of New England. Manning will be backed up as AFC quarterback by New England's Tom Brady and San Diego's Philip Rivers.

All six of the quarterbacks made the playoffs and, of course, would prefer

to be playing in the Super Bowl on Feb. 7 in Miami. The Pro Bowl has been moved to the preceding Sunday at Dolphin Stadium, and no Super Bowl participants will play in the all-star game.

Vikings running back Adrian Peterson, the league's top scorer among non-kickers, will be in the NFC backfield. The other Vikings who made it: Wide receiver Sidney Rice, defensive end Jared Allen, guard Steve Hutchinson, defensive tackle Kevin Williams, special teamer Heath Farwell and tackle Bryant McKinnie.

The other Colts on the AFC roster: Tight end Dallas Clark, defensive ends Dwight Freeney and Robert Mathis, wide receiver Reggie Wayne and center Jeff Saturday.

Two rookies made the AFC team, Houston linebacker Brian Cushing and Buffalo safety Jairus Byrd, who was on injured reserve. Washington linebacker Brian Orakpo was the lone rookie on the NFC squad. □



Minnesota Vikings quarterback Brett Favre (4) congratulates wide receiver Sidney Rice (18) after his touchdown reception in the final minute of the fourth quarter against the Chicago Bears in an NFL football game in Chicago, Monday, Dec. 28, 2009.

Associated Press



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Seared Snapper, Creole Sauce, Wilted Greens

Tastes of Japengo

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Szechuan Beef Salad, Pickled Cucumber and Carrot
Green Papaya Salad
Mango BBQ'd Salmon, Jasmine Cake,
Yellow Pepper Cilantro Pesto
Hoisin Chicken with Soy Beans and Shiitake
Ginger Beef with Red Curry
Thai Basil Pork and Eggplant with Green Curry
Seven Ingredient Fried Rice

Tastes of Piccolo

Antipasti Platter to Include Cured Meats and Cheeses
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Tomato-Pickled Crimson Onion Salad, Cabernet Vinaigrette
Roasted Wild Mushroom Salad
Prosciutto Wrapped Chicken Breast, Parmesan Orzo, Tomato Sage Ragout
Fig-Balsamic Pork Loin, Cranberry Beans
Truffled Mushroom Risotto, Sweet Peas
-Made To Order Pasta-
Sun Dried Tomato and Cheese Agnolotti, Roasted Garlic, Spinach
Alfredo Rigatoni with Roasted Eggplant, Boar Sausage, Fresh Mozzarella
Penne, Shrimp, White Beans, Oven Dried Tomatoes, Caramelized Vegetable Broth

Tastes of Ruinas del Mar

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Smoked Chicken and Wheat Berry Salad, Dried Apricots
Bibb and Frisse Salad, Citrus Segments, Avocado, Feta
Spinach Salad, Pancetta Crisps, Chopped Egg, Shallot Vinaigrette
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NHL Roundup

Modin scores in OT to end Jackets' 9-game skid 1-0



Columbus Blue Jackets' Fredrik Modin, left, of Sweden, carries the puck in front of Detroit Red Wings' Brad Stuart in overtime of an NHL hockey game in Columbus, Ohio, Monday, Dec. 28, 2009. The Blue Jackets won 1-0.

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Fredrik Modin backhanded in a rebound of his own shot 3:12 into overtime to give Columbus a 1-0 win over the Detroit Red Wings on Monday, ending the Blue Jackets' franchise-tying nine-game losing skid in the NHL. Steve Mason had 34 saves for his second shutout of the year. Modin carried the puck into

the offensive zone and past defenseman Brett Lebda to flick a shot at Detroit goaltender Jimmy Howard. He stopped the shot but Modin continued to skate and was able to backhand a shot past a diving Lebda that went behind Howard.

Howard stopped 39 shots.

Flames 4, Oilers 1

At Edmonton, Alberta, Rene Bourque scored three goals for his second career hat trick to help Calgary end a three-game losing streak with a win over Edmonton.

Ryan Potulny replied for the Oilers, who have lost seven in a row, their worst run since a nine-game skid from Feb. 25-March 15, 2007.

Mark Giordano also scored for the Flames, who have won all four meetings with the Oilers this year.

Sharks 3, Coyotes 2, SO

At San Jose, California, Joe Pavelski scored once in regulation and the only goal in the shootout to give San Jose a win over Phoenix.

Devin Setoguchi also scored for the Sharks, who won their fifth straight.

Shane Doan and Matthew Lombardi scored for the Coyotes, who had their three-game winning streak snapped. Phoenix goalie Ilya Bryzgalov stopped 36 shots, including all 19 he faced in the third period.

San Jose goalie Evgeni Nabokov made 31 saves.

Wild 4, Kings 3

At Los Angeles, Eric Belanger had two goals and an assist, including the go-ahead score with 2:25 left in the third period, as Minnesota won its third straight.

Defenseman Kim Johnsson scored during a power play,

Martin Havlat also had a goal and Niklas Backstrom made 29 saves to help end Minnesota's five-game losing streak against the Kings.

Cal Clutterbuck had two assists, one of which set up Belanger's eighth goal and second game-winner.

The Kings got goals from defensemen Drew Doughty and Jack Johnson. Jonathan Quick stopped 19 shots,

Hurricanes 6, Capitals 3

At Washington, Eric Staal had two goals and three assists to help Carolina end a three-game losing streak.

Jussi Jokinen added a goal and two assists. Tuomo Ruutu also had a goal and an assist while Matt Cullen added two assists as Carolina stopped Washington's three-game winning streak and got just its second road victory this season.

The Capitals traded captain Chris Clark and defenseman Milan Jurcina to Columbus for Jason Chimera earlier in the day and looked flat early, as the league's top-scoring team managed just four shots on goal in the first period.

At Newark, New Jersey, Zach Parise ended a goal-scoring slump with a pair as New Jersey edged Atlanta.

In other NHL games, New Jersey 3, Atlanta 2; Columbus 1, Detroit 0, OT; Carolina 6, Washington 3; Ottawa 4, Montreal 2; Tampa Bay 2, Boston 1; Calgary 4, Edmonton 1; San Jose 3, Phoenix 2, SO; and Minnesota 4, Los Angeles 3. □



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NBA Roundup

Stoudemire, Dudley lead Suns to rout of Lakers

PHOENIX (AP) — Amare Stoudemire scored 26 points and Jared Dudley matched his career best with 19 as the Phoenix Suns sent the Los Angeles Lakers to their second loss in three games with a surprising 118-103 rout on Monday.

Kobe Bryant scored 34 for the Lakers but sat out the final eight minutes when the game was deemed out of reach by coach Phil Jackson.

Steve Nash had 16 points and 13 assists and the Suns' reserves outscored their Los Angeles counterparts 52-31. Phoenix led by as many as 12 in the second quarter, 19 in the third and 22 in the fourth to improve to 12-2 at home.

Thunder 105, Nets 89

At East Rutherford, New Jersey, Kevin Durant matched his season high with 40 points as Oklahoma City defeated New Jersey, sending the Nets to their 10th straight loss and their second double-digit losing streak of the season.

Former Net Nenad Krstic added 19 points and Russell Westbrook had 16 points and 10 assists as the Thunder won a season-high third straight game. Reserve Nick Collison added 11 points and 10 rebounds. Oklahoma City held the Nets to 17 points in the final 17 minutes.

Yi Jianlian matched his career high with 29 points to lead New Jersey, which set an NBA record with 18 straight

losses to start the season. Courtney Lee chipped in with 17, Trenton Hassell had 14 and Devin Harris had 11 and 11 assists.

Bobcats 94, Bucks 84

At Charlotte, North Carolina, Gerald Wallace had 21 points and 14 rebounds as Charlotte beat Milwaukee in a miserable performance for the Bucks that prompted coach Scott Skiles to bench Michael Redd and Andrew Bogut.

Flip Murray added 16 points for the Bobcats in a one-sided matchup of teams that figure to contend for the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

The Bobcats built a 22-point halftime lead and Skiles didn't play Bogut or Redd in the second half after they combined to shoot 1 for 10. Brandon Jennings had 24 points for the Bucks, who shot 38 percent and committed 17 turnovers.

At Memphis, Tennessee, O.J. Mayo scored 28 points and Zach Randolph had six of his 23 points in overtime as Memphis beat Washington.

Marc Gasol finished with 20, and his two free throws with 9.5 seconds left extended the Memphis lead to 115-111.

Randolph made two free throws with 0.3 seconds left, sending the game to overtime tied at 102.

Mike Conley scored 22 for Memphis, which has won four straight at home. Randolph

had 19 rebounds.

Gilbert Arenas led the Wizards with 30 points, connecting on 5 of 11 from 3-point range.

At Oakland, California, Monta Ellis scored 37 points and converted two free throws with 2.3 seconds left as Golden State rallied from an early 18-point deficit to hand Boston its second two-game losing streak this season.

Anthony Randolph added 18 points and nine rebounds and scored six straight during an 8-2 run late in the third quarter to put the Warriors ahead.

Rajon Rondo had 30 points and 15 assists to lead Boston.

In other NBA games it was, Charlotte 94, Milwaukee 84; Oklahoma City 105, New Jersey 89; Memphis



Golden State Warriors' Monta Ellis (8) celebrates with teammates Corey Maggette, right, and Anthony Morrow (22) after defeating the Boston Celtics 103-99 at the end of an NBA basketball game Monday, Dec. 28, 2009, in Oakland, Calif.

Associated Press

116, Washington 111, OT; 101; Philadelphia 104, Phoenix 118, L.A. Lakers Portland 93; and Golden 103; Sacramento 106, Denver State 103, Boston 99. □

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SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

NFL Roundup

Cutler leads Bears over Vikings, 36-30 in OT

By ANDREW SELIGMAN

AP Sports Writer

CHICAGO — Brett Favre cranked up and made one more impossible throw, zinging a touchdown pass in the fading seconds. Too bad for the Minnesota Vikings, that merely put them into overtime.

The Vikings lost again Monday night, beaten by the Chicago Bears 36-30 when Jay Cutler tossed a 39-yard strike to Devin Aromashodu. Minnesota fell for the third time in four games, and the defeat gave the New Orleans Saints homefield advantage throughout the NFC playoffs. "I know we're fortunate to be in the playoffs but we have to play better than we did the last few weeks or we'll be home fairly quickly," Favre said. "I'm just being honest as I can be."

Playing for the first time since the dustup between the star quarterback and coach Brad Childress became public, the Vikings' late rally wasn't enough.

After Favre's stunning, fourth-down pass to Sidney Rice with 16 seconds left in regulation, Cutler threw the game-winner with just over 9 minutes left in overtime to prevent the Vikings (11-4) from locking up a first-round playoff bye. Nick Roach recovered a fumble by Adrian Peterson following a catch, setting up Cutler's fourth touchdown pass of the game. Favre's pass to a leaping Rice capped a 68-yard touchdown drive and tied the game at 30. Chicago's Robbie Gould, who kicked three field goals in the first half, had a chance to win it on the first possession of the overtime but missed a 45-yard field goal wide right.

The Bears (6-9) took advantage a few minutes



Teammates surround Chicago Bears wide receiver Devin Aromashodu (19) after his touchdown reception in overtime that gave the Bears a 36-30 win over the Minnesota Vikings in an NFL football game in Chicago, Monday, Dec. 28, 2009.

later, though, when Hunter Hillenmeyer knocked the ball away from Peterson and Roach recovered. Cutler found an open Aromashodu, who had beaten Antoine Winfield, and the Bears won for just the third time in 11 games.

"It's good for the team, it's good for the morale of going out there and putting up points and answering the bell, especially in the fourth quarter and overtime when you have to do it," Cutler said.

Favre has never led a team to a win after trailing by 17 or more points, falling to 0-43 in such situations.

The Bears were up 23-6 in the third quarter and the Vikings were able to tie it twice.

Minnesota can lock up a first-round bye with a win next week and loss or tie by Philadelphia

or with a tie and an Eagles loss. But after running away with the NFC North, the Vikings didn't expect to be in this situation.

They started 10-1 behind a resurgent Favre, but have tailed off since. Favre had a good game after three mediocre performances, completing 26 of 40 passes for 321 yards and two touchdowns. Peterson ran for 94 yards and two scores, but the Vikings simply couldn't pull this one out.

Cutler looked more like the player the Bears thought they were getting in a trade with Denver than the one who's been racking up interceptions at an alarming rate. He was 20 of 35 for 273 yards, although he did throw his league-leading 26th interception.

"It's fun," Cutler said of

outdueling Favre. "He got me in Denver. I got him when he was in New York. ... It was a good game."

Aromashodu had seven catches for 150 yards, and Danieal Manning set up two touchdowns with kickoff returns of 57 and 59 yards.

The Bears led 16-0 at halftime and 23-6 midway through the third before Minnesota rallied.

The Vikings tied it at 23 on Peterson's 1-yard run with 5:49 left, then Manning ran the kickoff back 59 yards before tripping at the 21. Two plays later, Cutler hit Earl Bennett with a 20-yard touchdown to give the Bears a 30-23 lead with 4:55 remaining, and the Bears appeared to be in good shape.

Favre and Rice had other ideas, though, tying it with that

spectacular catch at the end of regulation. Hillenmeyer finally set up the winning touchdown, knocking the ball away from Peterson after he caught a short flare.

This looked like a primetime-worthy matchup when the schedule came out, and it lived up to that billing even though the script didn't play out as expected.

Bears coach Lovie Smith is feeling the heat, and general manager Jerry Angelo added a few logs before last week's loss at Baltimore, when he passed on offering a vote of confidence while saying a roster overhaul wasn't necessary.

Then again, after three straight misses, it's not clear if Angelo is on solid footing.

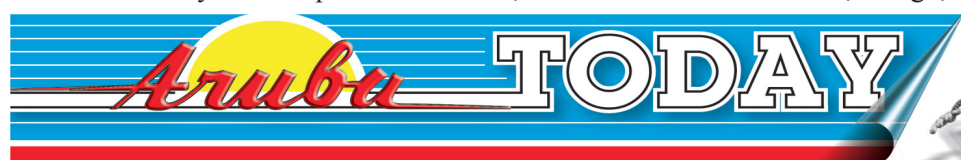
"I think the game made a statement about our football team and where we are and what we can be in the future, no more than that," Smith said. "As a football coach your job is at stake every day you go to work. ... It's like that with everyone. I realize where I am and where we are. It's been a disappointing season and I'm the head football coach."

Suddenly, the Vikings are looking shaky, too.

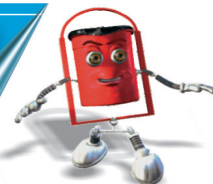
That sideline confrontation during last week's loss to Carolina sparked reports that Favre and Childress had clashed over play-calling, although they insisted their relationship was fine.

Childress said he simply wanted to protect a quarterback under siege by the Panthers. Favre indicated it was performance-based.

Either way, the idea of pulling the league's career passing leader raised more than a few eyebrows even if he hadn't been playing the way he did earlier. □



KEEP ARUBA CLEAN...



THANKS FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION



New Generation slot machines at Cool Casino

PALM BEACH -- The latest generation of video slot machines just arrived at Cool Casino. While the casino is relatively new on the Palm Beach strip, Director Marc Charley reports that it has just undergone a total make-over of the gaming floor, and players will be amazed at the variety of new machines, including progressives and video poker offered in all denominations with paybacks varying in frequency and size, amounting to many thousands of dollars!

"The latest in electronic and video slot machines in the world is now available at the Riu's elegant Cool Casino, and players are served complimentary beverages while having fun," Marc states.

"The electronic video game manufacturers have been improving their designs," he continues, "and the latest versions now offer players thousands of different variations, some with up to fifty winning lines and special additional bonus games. This makes for a high hit percentage and a more entertaining playing experience, and the entertainment value that players derive from playing video slots makes these metal-heads extremely popular," he concludes.

Continued on Page B4

The Nutcracker debuts tonight!

PALM BEACH - Following a special performance for guests of the Occidental Grand, the resort will host two evenings open to the public of Leonid Kozlov's famous interpretation of "The Nutcracker," guest starring Kiril Kulish as the Nutcracker/Prince. Kiril is enjoying a working holiday on Aruba, fresh from winning the Tony award for Best Male Lead for his starring turn in this year's Best Musical, "Billy Elliot." The first is tonight.

The famous ballet, featuring Tchaikovsky's immortal music, is a timeless holiday fairy tale; a delight for the young and the young at heart.

Leonid Kozlov, former principal dance with the Bolshoi and New York City Ballet, has imported whimsical sets and costumes commissioned from noted Russian artists who design specifically for the ballet theater, and a number of his dancers from Kozlov Dance International.

Esmaina Jani, a finalist at the American Youth Grand Prix of Dance and a gold medal winner at the Youth Dance Festival in 2007, 08 and 09 will dance the lead part of Clara. Leonid Kozlov and his wife, Adriana, also a prima ballerina, will also be part of the cast.

Continued on Next Page



Carolyn Pollack-Kruel celebrates another landmark moment with her Aruban "family"



PALM BEACH - Carolyn Pollack-Kruel, of Allquippa, Pennsylvania, owner of Ambassador Travel, fell in love with Aruba during her first visit in 1979, and since

then, the island and the dear friends she has made here have been an integral part of some of the most memorable moments in her life.

It was Carolyn's girlfriend and colleague, Nancy Brunette Baty, who first convinced her to take advantage of a remarkable deal to stay at the Tamarijn resort in 1979, and Carolyn returned every year to spend Christmas and New Year's in Aruba with her mother Elizabeth and her Aunt Barbara Tokar. Eventually, she met and fell in love with George Kruel, who she introduced to her favorite place in the world, and for him too, it became a "home away from home."

Holiday Inn was where Carolyn usually stayed with her mom and aunt, and there she made some great friends on the staff, such as Annie, Susanna and Lucia. When she discovered they had joined the staff of the Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino when it first opened, she then relocated to the new resort, again becoming fast friends with many of the staff, such as Vangie Manois and Phine Magalona.

Eventually, Carolyn bought a house in Palm Beach, but the Marriott restaurants remained her favorite places to celebrate special occasions, and the Tuscany, which is now a Ruth's Chris Steakhouse, was where she staged a grand 93rd birthday celebration for her Aunt Barbara in 2004, attended by many of her island friends. The occasion was marked by recently departed Marriott General Manager Rick Zeolla, who has gone on to manage the Marriott in Cairo, Egypt, baby-sitting Barbara's, Jano Bambino, but leading the dog into the restaurant when it came time to blow out the candles on a 4ftx4ft cake sporting 100 candles.

Another landmark event on Carolyn's life was George popping the question in 2005 during a birthday dinner for Carolyn, shared with their dear island friends Joyce and Shea Lichtenstein

Continued on Page B9



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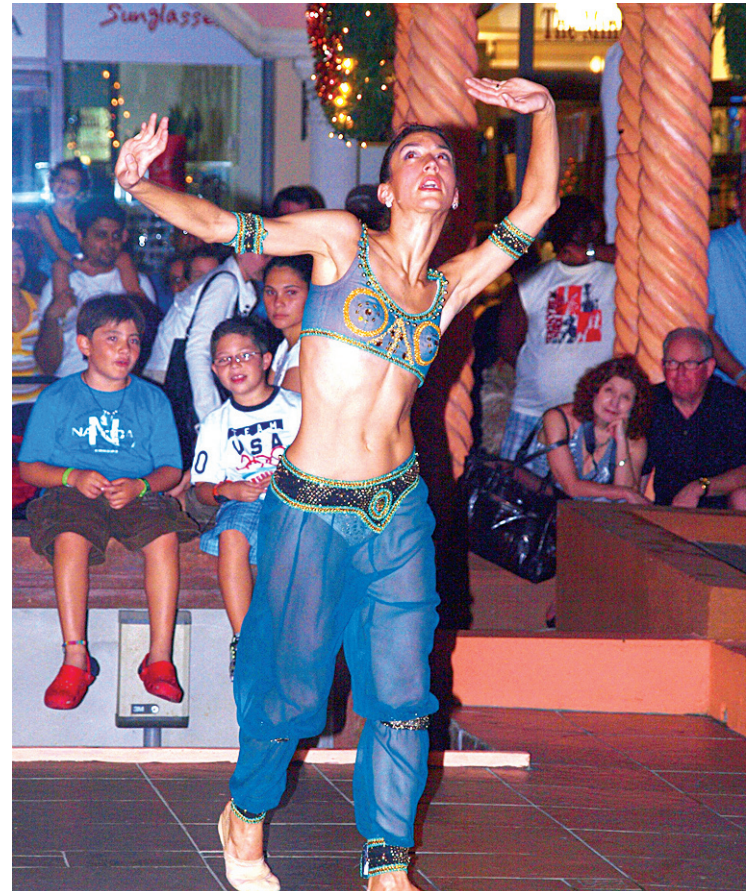
The Nutcracker debuts tonight!



Continued from Page B1

Tickets for this unusual holiday program are only \$20 per person and can be purchased at the concierge desk in the Occidental Grand Resort and at all Van Dorp Bookstands in the Holiday Inn, Divi and Tamarijn Resorts, as well as their main store on Avenida Milio Croes.

On Saturday, January 2, the company will offer a varied program, with excerpts from The Nutcracker and featuring the world premiere of a show created by Leonid Kozlov to

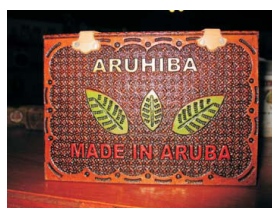


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ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba.

Petrocchi has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The process took ten years. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar box is specially designed for the cigars with the logo "Aruhiba". Petrocchi considers Aruhiba a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars. The company sells International cigars as well. Buy a gift box of Aruhiba Corona with five cigars and you will get 1 FREE cigar of \$35. Located at the Historic Dutch Windmill. Open on Sunday from 9am to 8pm. And also at Tamarijn Hotel open from 9am to 1pm. Aruhiba is only available in above mentioned stores. Visit our authentic tobacco farm where cigars are handmade.



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particularly showcase Kiril, a multi-faceted and multi-talented young performer. Tap, contemporary dance and ballet will all be combined in the program, of which a preview was seen last Sunday at the Paseo Herencia Mall in Palm Beach, involving young island dancer Shewska Marcela Verberne of the Pachanga Dance School of Aruba, earning standing ovations. Kiril has also won

the title of U.S. Latin Ballroom Dancing Champion, and is very pleased about being paired with a young Aruban dancer, who are raised in the art. Saturday's program will be an exciting and dramatic evening of dance for all who love to see a display of great talent. Curtains rise promptly at 8:00 PM, do not miss this great opportunity to enjoy world class performances!



Open daily
9 am - 12am

NEW YEAR'S DAY PLUNGE

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DJ Jeroen: 11-3pm

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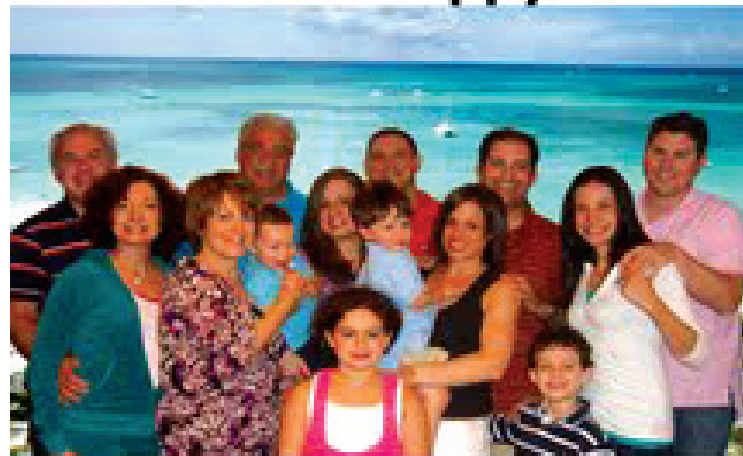
We've been coming to Aruba every year for over 25 years, but it's the first time that the whole family-15 of us

(2 month old newborn not shown) -are all together in Aruba for Family Fun Week, week 52 at the Phoenix.

Our celebrations in Aruba are our dream come true and we consider beautiful Aruba our "home away from home". We LOVE Aruba! □

From left to right 1st row: Kayla Menkes, Andrew Menkes 2nd row: Sue Menkes, Doris Greenberg, Benjamin O'Malley, Amy O'Malley, Spencer Menkes, Julie Menkes, Lauren Stern 3rd row: George Menkes, Carl Greenberg, Steve O'Malley, Adam Menkes, Andrew Stern

Aruba...One Happy Island



...One Happy Family

The best-ever music is played on New Year's Eve

Grand finale of 2009 at CILO City Lounge with the Top 2000

ORANJESTAD - The year 2009 is going to see a grand finale at CILO City Lounge in the Renaissance Marketplace when the marina-view restaurant and bar is playing the final of the Top 2000 of best music ever. The songs have been chosen by 1,5 million people and this hit parade is listened to by some 5 million listeners in Holland and abroad. World famous numbers by Queen, the Eagles, Meatloaf, Led Zeppelin, Michael Jackson will undoubtedly be among the toppers that are played towards midnight. The Top 2000's number one is played at 12 o'clock, of course, with a champagne toast.

On December 31, CILO will be open the entire day, night

and part of the following morning. This means that everyone is welcome to come and celebrate New Year's Eve there. As quite a number of bars and restaurants will be closed as midnight is near, CILO will be the place to go

to meet friends and party to the favorite music of millions. After midnight, special requests from the Top 2000 are played, so start thinking about the song you like best, want to hear again and see as a video clip. □

post aruba

ANNOUNCEMENT

Post Aruba N.V. would like to inform that due of the New Year the opening hours will be as mentioned below:

San Nicolas & Santa Cruz	December 31, 2009 closed January 4, 2010 open normally
Oranjestad	December 31, 2009 open until 11am (only offering services such as: Western Union and hand over of packages) January 4, 2010 open normally
Port of Call	December 31, 2009 open until 11am January 4, 2010 open normally
Palm Beach Plaza Mall	December 31, 2009 open until 11am January 2, 2010 open normally

Management and staff would like to wish you a Happy New Year 2010.

Sincerely,
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New Generation slot machines at Cool Casino



Continued from Page B1

One of the most popular games at Cool Casino includes the Super V+Gaminator, a multi-game machine which provides a permanently

growing choice of stunning combinations on extra wide screens for maximum impact. The advanced video gaming technology also boasts unrivalled sound



quality making the playing experience as realistic as possible. The games are easy to play, they are packed with colorful graphics and graced by catchy, memorable names. Make sure to check out

popular Bally Technologies Quick Hit Platinum, Goldbeard's Treasure, & Reel Money, legendary Ainsworth Ambassador slots including Ragging Roosters, Roulette slots, and two fast-paced progressive carousels: 25c Quest of the Conquistadors and 25c Flamenco Fortune. □

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Sunday \$25 Buy-in

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Ring in the New Year with a splash!

BUGALOE'S ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S DAY SWIM

PALM BEACH - Join the annual New Year's Day Plunge ("Nieuwjaarsduik") into the warm Caribbean Sea at Bugaloe Beach Bar & Grill at Palm Beach. With full local support and several corporate sponsors, this annual event includes many "swimmers" and spectators from Aruba, as well as tourists. Registration starts at 11am and first 70 participants will also receive gift package from sponsor Jägermeister. After the photo shoot by supporters and press, the group runs into the sea at 12pm sharp. Participants must go completely underwater.

"It's so much fun to run into the sea with a bunch of people. And even when you are not going to participate in the swim, it's just fun to watch," Bugaloe's event manager Myrthe Veltman says. She continues: "The New Year's Day Swim is a tradition all over the world that started in Vancouver Canada in 1920. But instead of the ice-cold ocean, we will challenge ourselves with the warm clear waters of Aruba. But it's not only the swim that counts; it's the fun around it. That's why Bugaloe started this tradition in Aruba."

Registration starts at 11am and the swim starts at 12pm. Bugaloe will give away free Unox Dutch Pea Soup. Participants may also enjoy a free shot of Jägermeister with compliments of Bugaloe.

From 11 to 3pm DJ Jeroen will top the event with his popular beats from his Club Arashi. Bugaloe is located at De Palm Pier in Palm Beach, between RIU Palace and Radisson Resort. For more information go to www.bugaloe.com.



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Soup

Potato Leek Bacon Soup

Main Attractions

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 Chicken wrapped in couscous & baked with ham and cheese
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***** HUMAN HINTS *****

2012

Let us gain some clarity about the moment we have labeled December 21, 2012. This date in our near future is enshrouded by uncertainty. Where there's uncertainty, there's fear, and where there's fear, there's money to be made. People naturally gravitate toward fear, partly because they like the emotional stimulation it gives them. Fear is exciting, and excitement is an emotional escape from our Robot Routines.

This is certainly true for 2012, so prepare your

selves for an oncoming onslaught of 2012 movies, predictions, news stories, internet, and rest assured, they will be all fear-based. By the time 12/21/12 arrives, most people on earth will be focused on it with uncertain anticipation. Mystery behind this date will inundate all levels of human consciousness across the planet. Imagine the force field of Human Thought this will create.

Basically, Earth will be involved in many different

astral alignments all aligning at once, creating one big alignment made up of alignments. That exact day is also when the Earth's magnetic shift is due to happen, and no one knows how it will happen, or what effects it will have on Earth and her Life.

The mayan calendar does not end on that day. The prophecy says that after that date, we will not be able to recognize who we once were. This will be a spiritual awakening, as the astral alignments become more conducive to higher frequency expression on Earth.

In all likelihood, nothing will happen and life will more or less continue as expected. The big difference will be that, after 12/21/12, we will have greater access to higher-dimensional frequencies, and we will have more direct control over our three dimensional lives. Profound thoughts will flow. Problems and conflicts will be solved with Grace. We will not so naturally gravitate toward fear.

Astral alignments create a confluence, a joining of

many different vibrational frequencies, many different paths to follow. We will all have many options and opportunities. All that is required of you in these amazing, dynamic moments, is to be yourself. You will make all the decisions that are exactly right for you. There is no test. We are not being subject to a galactic assay which will determine our level of spiritual existence for all eternity. Just be comfortable with yourself, and you'll be fine.

The effects of these astral alignments won't take hold overnight. The energies have been building for thousands of earth years, and they will now unfold in cycles of time. The moments before and after any event are the most energetically focused and poignant. These are the "tween" moments, the moments during a change. Dusk and dawn have long been considered very powerful spiritual times of the day.

Don't get caught up in fear. Ignore the fearful things. When we pay attention to something, we feed it our energy, we give it our time and energy. When we ignore something, we take our

attention away from it, we starve it of energy. This is true of all things, including love and joy.


Until Tomorrow...

Go to www.HumanHints.com to sign up to receive this column in your email each day.


~Quentin Danziger
Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and has also studied many avenues of alternative thought.

HumanHints is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any future you choose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

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AT RENAISSANCE - ORANJESTAD

PG	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS "THE SQUEAKQUEL"	daily: 5.00 matinee: 12.30	7.00	NEW
G	THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG	daily: 4.45 matinee: 12.15	2.30	
R	THE BLIND SIDE	daily: 5.45 matinee: 12.00	8.30 late show: 11.30	
R	NINJA ASSASSIN	daily: 7.00 late show: 11.45	9.15	
PG	OLD DOGS	daily: 4.15 matinee: 12.15	6.15 2.15 8.15 late show: 10.15 12.15	
PG-13	2012	daily: 4.45 matinee: 1.30	8.00 late show: 11.15	
PG	THE TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON	daily: 9.00 late show: 11.45		
PG-13	AVATAR 3D	daily: 4.30 matinee: 1.15	7.45 late show: 11.00	

AT PASEO HERENCIA

PG	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS "THE SQUEAKQUEL"	daily: 4.45 matinee: 12.15	7.00 late show:	NEW
PG-13	TERUG NAAR DE KUST	daily: 6.45 late show: 11.45	9.15	NEW
PG	THE TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON	daily: 9.00 late show: 11.45		
G	THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG	daily: 4.30 matinee: 12.00	2.15 late show:	
PG-13	2012	daily: 5.00 matinee: 1.45	8.15 late show: 11.30	
PG-13	DID YOY HEAR ABOUT THE MORGANS	daily: 5.00 matinee: 12.30	7.30 late show: 9.45 12.00	
PG-13	AVATAR 3D	daily: 4.45 matinee: 1.30	8.00 late show: 11.15	
R	ARMORED	daily: 5.30 matinee: 1.00	7.45 late show: 9.45 12.00	

Dec 24 Closed • Dec 25 No Matinee
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We'd like to thank all our clients for placing your trust in us throughout 2009.

And as always, wishing for the same great ties between you and us at Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.

We'd like to extend a Happy New Year and many blessings to each of you in the coming year.



Happy New Year

ORANJESTAD – Last Saturday the 26th of December there was Live band Prive at Mambo Jambo.

DJ Diablo started the night with the best Latin songs, and everybody got in the mood.. after a couple of songs, Live Band Prive started with their performance and everyone danced the whole night long enjoying the great party..

The next event will be tonight, Wednesday, the 30th of December with the Live Band 3 Som starting at 11pm and on Thursday the 31st of December, the New Year's Eve Party with the Happy Hour from 10pm till 11pm and DJ Diablo playing from 4pm till 7pm and 11pm till 3am!! Specials on Champagne and Free Shots!☐



THANKS FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION

Carolyn Pollack-Kruel celebrates another landmark moment with her Aruban "family"



Continued from Page B1 They were married in the U.S., but their union was not

complete until they shared a spiritual ceremony with family and friends at the Santa Anna



Church in Noord, conducted by another person very special to them, Father Rene Villamora. Again, Tuscany was the place for their festive wedding party with over 40 guests, though poignantly, Carolyn's mother and aunt had passed on, unable to share this very special moment in Aruba with their beloved and loving daughter and niece. It is significant of Carolyn's involvement with the local community that the Catholic Church of Aruba agreed to marry the couple on island, as it is not a service they extend towards non-residents. Among the many activities that have made them a part of the community, Carolyn and George have donned costumes and marched in Carnival events, as well.

This past Sunday, December 27, Carolyn again hosted what she considers a landmark event she and George had to share with their island friends, the anniversary of her 30th year of vacationing in Aruba. She had already been awarded Ambassador of Goodwill status by the Aruba Tourism Authority years ago, but Carolyn has been such a special visitor and an authentic Ambassador of Goodwill, praising the island to all she meets, she earned the special attention of the ATA, who sent Martiza Lacle to the La Vista Restaurant in the Marriott Resort to present Carolyn a token of their regard. Surrounded by many she had befriended over the years, including "the first friend I made in Aruba, Antonio Leo," and his wife Lillian, she was presented with a magnificent cake by the Marriott and the love and attention she commands by her glowing presence.

"Since 1976 I have experienced traveling all around the world," observed Carolyn. "I have been to Africa, Europe and many islands in the Caribbean. There are plenty with white sand beaches and great restaurants, however, in my opinion; there is nowhere in the world I have found the good, honest people to equal those in Aruba. I think we should live our lives making our family our best friends,



and making our friends our family. I just want to say "thank you" to all the Aruban people I have come to know for making me a part of your

family," she concluded. Aruban friends and family say "Congratulations Carolyn, thank you for being our friend!" □



Celebrate tonight with Live Music & Entertainment at Casa Tua Barcelona



ORANJESTAD - Our Flamenco Show will be extended this Holiday Season with the performance of Kavey Yarzagaray. This Flamenco guitar player will perform together with Angela Croes TONIGHT and then again on Friday.

Enjoy your Paella and Sangria together with this fantastic live show! The downtown atmosphere is cool and relaxed with its in- and outside seating.

The highlight at Casa Tua Barcelona is also the new lunch specials every weekday from Monday till Friday! **A \$9.95 lunch special; Beef tenderloin**



with a red wine sauce or choose the Grouper Fillet for \$11.95. Both dishes include a soft drink. Fresh Fish lovers can treat the palate to the Whole Red Snapper, served with Rice and a salad.

All days of the week we serve Cold and Hot tapas as appetizers or the delicious Iberian Ham Pata Negra which we import directly from Andalucía. As your main course you could choose our Paella, traditionally prepared on the spot by our chef! Combine this Spanish dish with our home-made sangria to complete your dinner.

Of course we saved the best for last as no one does an ending better than Casa Tua with their dreamy Tiramisu. If you're into something different we suggest tasting the Espresso Martini Cocktail as dessert, you won't be disappointed.

The best part about such a good ending is that it guarantees you'll be back for more...



Casa Tua Barcelona Downtown open from 11.30am to 10.30pm, Sunday from 5pm to 11pm tel. 588 5695. Casa Tua Palm Beach open from 5pm to 11pm, tel 586 8470

Fine & Affordable Dining at Pam Pam Restaurant

Meet Chef Ludwich Samson and his exquisite menu now unveiled!



Nestled in the quiet neighborhood of Boegoeroei, Perle d'Or apartment complex houses Dutch students and vacationers, as well as a cozy garden eatery, Pam Pam Restaurant & Bar. Aiming to attract a more diverse clientele, Pam Pam has recently adopted a more upscale dining concept. In order to pilot this new concept, rising local chef Ludwich Samson was brought on board, and in just two months on the job, he has

more than proven his worth.

Laid-back, refreshingly young, and ambitious, Ludwich began his career as a chef by enrolling in Aruba's hospitality and culinary arts school—the best decision he has ever made, he wholeheartedly claims. With ten years in the kitchen and three years as a chef, Ludwich has developed an impressive arsenal of cooking skills. He attributes the majority of his growth as a chef to his years

of working under his mentor, Vittorio Muscarllo, owner of Hostaria Da'Vittorio and one of the most highly respected chefs on Aruba.

In his two months with Pam Pam, Ludwich has entirely remodeled the kitchen to make it more efficient. He has also created a whole new menu featuring particularly unique dishes in order to distinguish Pam Pam from the endless number of restaurants along Aruba's hotel strip. While the menu still offers Dutch snacks and typical Dutch platters like sate to appease the many Dutch interns residing at Perle d'Or, the rest of the menu offers upscale fusion cuisine. Lemon grass and chillies give several seafood dishes a Thai flair; homemade ravioli and beef carpaccio salute Italy; crustacean ceviche adds a Peruvian element; and Indonesian spices add zest to a handful of casual main dishes.

Ludwich also craftily adds little unexpected twists to some classic dishes, elevating the uniqueness of his menu. One of his personal favorites is his porcini-crusted filet mignon served with a thyme red-wine reduction. He also delights in the fact that most diners have a hard time figuring out the sweet and spicy deliciousness of his signature crustacean platter. Other interesting interpretations include lump-crab lollipops, chicken cordon blue unorthodoxly stuffed with ricotta and bacon, and for dessert, tiramisu that promises an untraditional layer of decadent Bailey's chocolate mousse.

Needless to say, Ludwich is creative in the kitchen and works extremely hard, currently putting in 12 to 16 hours a day, seven days a week; but he insists that this is not what makes a good chef good. "I simply love what



I do for a living," confides Ludwich, and this is what guarantees success in the kitchen and contented diners. Of course, being a chef can be downright stressful, but Ludwich thrives on the rush of adrenaline on busy nights. And when he peers out of the kitchen and sees a restaurant full of people enjoying their meals, he experiences immense satisfaction. For reservations call: 5877710 or 7483848, or visit us at www.pampamaruba.com. □



By: Dr Carlos Viana

We are blessed to live in the land of endless sunshine. There's nothing "SAD" about being able to go barefoot and enjoy blue skies every day. Sometimes though, on our tiny island, life can seem, well, tiny. Phyllis' antidote to "tiny" is to vacation in the big city. New York City, especially during the holidays energizes her. But after a week of nothing but grey skies, Phyllis begins to feel what our friends up north call the winter blue's or Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD). Luckily, we get to come home to daily sunshine and blue skies before it becomes a problem. For those of you not so lucky to experience only a week or two of winter grey it can cause more than a passing moment of "sad" feelings.

Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) is a type of depression that often occurs in winter throughout the Northern and Southern Hemispheres due to lack of light and sunshine. It is rare in people living near the equator, where daylight hours are long. In individuals affected by this disorder, the symptoms usually recur each winter, starting between September and November and continuing until March or April; and although SAD may begin at any age, the typical age of onset is between eighteen and thirty. In addition to symptoms of depression, most sufferers show signs of a weakened immune system during the winter and are more vulnerable to infections and other illnesses, while in spring and autumn they

Blue-Grey (SAD)

may have extreme mood changes and short periods of hypomania (overactivity). For some people, SAD produces symptoms severe enough to cause considerable stress and disrupt their lives. SAD symptoms usually disappear automatically in spring or when affected individuals travel to sunnier climates.

A diagnosis of SAD can be made after three or more consecutive winters of symptoms, which include the following:

- Desire to oversleep and difficulty staying awake
- Disturbed sleep
- Feelings of fatigue and inability to handle daily routine
- Craving carbohydrates and sweets
- Feelings of misery, guilt, apathy or loss of feelings
- Irritability
- Reduced self-esteem
- Desire to avoid social contact
- Tension and inability to tolerate stress
- Decreased interest in sex and physical contact

If relocating to a sunnier location is not possible, SAD can be treated in several ways. First, individuals can buy lightbulbs labeled, "full-spectrum". Full-spectrum bulbs are similar to natural daylight because the light is perceived to have the color and brightness of daylight. Daylight is a form of energy that travels in various wavelengths. Daylight, because it includes all

wavelengths that are visible to the human eye, is considered full spectrum.

When SAD leads to depression, it can be treated with standard antidepressant drugs, or if these are ineffective, relief may be found in 5HTP (hydroxytryptophan), the precursor to serotonin, which plays an important role in regulating mood, sleep, sexuality, appetite, and vomiting. The benefits of 5HTP, which, unlike other antidepressants, affects only the brain, are very similar to those of L-tryptophan, such as aiding sleep, alleviating age-related depression, and minimizing effects of alcohol withdrawal. But 5HTP must not be taken with other serotonin-enhancing drugs, such as L-tryptophan or Prozac, without the guidance of a physician since this may cause severe side effects, including mania, anxiety, and dermatitis.

In addition, depression caused by SAD can be treated with acupuncture. Traditional Chinese medicine, believes that heat, cold, wind, dampness, dryness, and summer heat are six external climatic forces that can invade the human organism and create disharmony in body, mind, and spirit. Acupuncture can help people who suffer from SAD achieve a more balanced state.

The effects of SAD can be prevented or minimized by remaining physically active during the fall and winter months. Try winter outdoor

activities such as skating, skiing. Jogging, walking the dog or playing outside with the kids can still be enjoyed in winter, but the right clothing and warming up is essential. Make sure you start earlier to catch the shorter daylight hours for safety and enjoyment. If you can't take the cold, switch to indoor stretches and exercises such as swimming, yoga, or try salsa lessons. These are excellent ways to maintain a healthy mind and body. Getting enough quality rest and staying connected with friends and family or getting professional help is important for emotional support.

As a clinical nutritionist, I can never say enough about eating healthy and staying hydrated. In the cold you may not sweat and therefore not realize you are dehydrated. However many indoor heating systems are drying, get a home humidifier if necessary. Including immune supporting supplements like vitamin C, Zinc, Cats claw, Reishi, Shiitake and Maitake Mushrooms can make a difference. Add B complex to your program, to support strength and energy and 5HTP for "blue" feelings.

Get the Point. Don't spend another winter being SAD. With a little effort, you can adjust your lifestyle to the seasons. Plan and shop ahead for healthy meals. Stock up on immune system and mood supporting supplements. Schedule time and find new ways to exercise, with a friend if possible. Invest in full spectrum lightbulbs. Try acupuncture;



stay active physically, mentally and emotionally with supportive friends, family and professionals. Of course, a winter getaway to a sunny place like Aruba could help you turn your grey skies to a brighter shade of blue. If you're visiting our sunny island and would like more information, call us for an appointment.

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in China; a US Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), an Addiction Professional (C.Ad.), Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist specializing in Age Management, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA HEALING CENTER, Kibaima 7, St Cruz TEL: 585-1270 Web Site: www.vianaheal.com

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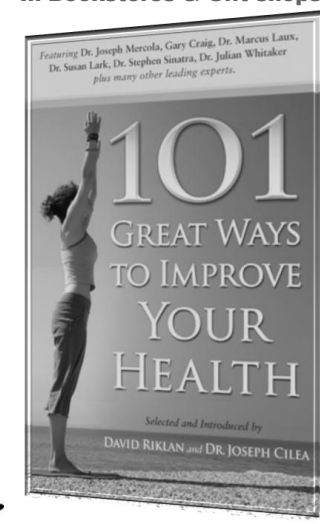
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Gobierno Uruguayo comienza transición con presidente electo

MONTEVIDEO (Reuters)

- El Gobierno uruguayo comenzó el martes el proceso de transición con el presidente electo, José Mujica, quien ya formó el gabinete que lo acompañará en el Poder Ejecutivo desde el 1 de marzo en el segundo mandato consecutivo de la izquierda.

En el futuro gabinete figuran varios de los antiguos compañeros de Mujica en la guerrilla izquierdista Tupamaros, y funcionarios del actual Gobierno, entre ellos dos mujeres.

Si bien Mujica no confirmó oficialmente la integración de su gabinete, en los informes entregados por el presidente Tabaré Vázquez

figuraba el nombre de los actuales ministros y de los que serán sus sucesores que participaron el martes de una ceremonia para iniciar la transición.

Según los informes, el clave Ministerio de Economía y Finanzas será para Fernando Lorenzo, quien se desempeñó como director de la Asesoría Macroeconómica de la cartera cuando el vicepresidente electo Danilo Astori era el ministro.

Mujica, quien ganó la segunda vuelta electoral de noviembre ante el ex presidente Luis Alberto Lacalle, de centroderecha, ha afirmado que continuará con las políticas implementadas por Vázquez en el primer Gobierno de izquierda del

país.

Eduardo Bonomi, uno de los asesores más cercanos al presidente electo y ex ministro de Trabajo, estará al frente del Ministerio del Interior. Al igual que Mujica, pasó años en la cárcel durante la dictadura militar (1973-1985) por sus actividades con la guerrilla.

Otros dos ex compañeros de Mujica estarán a cargo de los ministerios de Defensa y de Educación y Cultura. Luis Rosadilla, un panadero y ex diputado, también preso durante la dictadura, será el ministro de Defensa, y el intendente (gobernador) de Montevideo, Ricardo Erlich, asumirá en Educación y Cultura. □



Foto de archivo del presidente electo de Uruguay, José Mujica, dando su discurso tras su victoria en Montevideo, nov 29 2009. REUTERS/Pablo La Rosa

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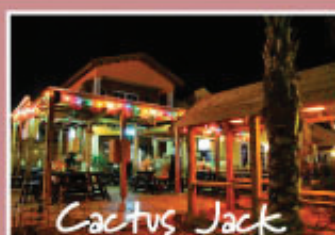


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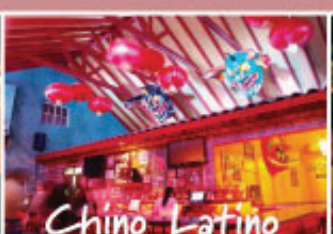
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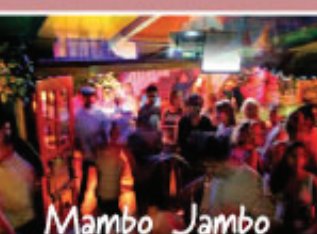
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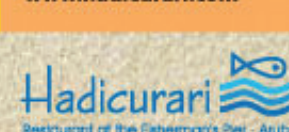
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